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while it will rank high among books on China, the volume would be more valuable if it were written less diffusely and if all of it had been prepared for the book, instead of many chapters for magazines and reviews. The result is a book that is not so compact and well balanced as it might be, and at least a fourth of it might be spared. Professor Parker has not been so much impressed with the evils of opium-smoking as some other writers. He says it is a waste of time and money, but he never observed any dreadful inroads upon the constitution. All who smoke are rather ashamed of it.

NOTES AND NEWS.

PRESIDENT PEARY received on the 29th of June a letter informing him that the Société de Géographie, Paris, had awarded to him by unanimous vote a gold medal, in recognition of the services rendered to geographical science by his remarkable journeys and explorations in the Polar Regions.

THE GAUSS IN CANADIAN WATERS.—Captain Bernier, who is in command of the Canadian Government expedition to Hudson Bay this summer, has written to a friend in this city that the Antarctic exploring steamship *Gauss*, purchased by Canada for the expedition, was in dry dock at St. Joseph de Lévis, near Quebec, and that about July 15 she would leave for the north with supplies and coal for the Government steamer *Neptune*, which wintered in Hudson Bay. It is said that the *Gauss* will probably take on board a detachment of mounted police, to be placed on some of the northern islands.

A MILD WINTER IN ALASKA.—Mr. Hugh Lee has written to President Peary from Cape Prince of Wales, Bering Strait, that the past winter in Northern Alaska was uncommonly mild. He says: "There has been very little ice in this part of the Arctic and the weather has been milder than for years past. The temperature was not lower than -30° . All winter long the shore of the Arctic Ocean for 40 miles north of here and probably more was, from time to time, entirely free from ice, with waves dashing on the shores as in summer. Of course the ice would come in with an on-shore wind; but Bering Sea, the Strait and the Arctic Ocean northeast of the Strait were remarkably free from floe ice."